

1 [Counsel on signature page]
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UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
NORTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA
SAN JOSE DIVISION

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6 *In re Google Generative AI Copyright
Litigation,*

Master File Case No.: 5:23-cv-03440-EKL
Consolidated with Case No.: 5:24-cv-02531-EKL

7 ~~[PROPOSED]~~ ORDER RE: DISCOVERY OF
8 ELECTRONICALLY STORED
9 INFORMATION

Judge: Hon. Eumi K. Lee

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1 **1. PURPOSE**

2 This Order will govern discovery of electronically stored information (“ESI”) in this case
 3 as a supplement to the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure, this Court’s Guidelines for the
 4 Discovery of Electronically Stored Information, and any other applicable orders and rules. The
 5 failure of this Protocol to address any issue is without prejudice to any position that a Party may
 6 take on that issue. To the extent that an issue is not addressed by a provision herein, the Federal
 7 Rules of Civil Procedure, the Northern District of California eDiscovery Guidelines, and other
 8 applicable Standing Orders and Guidelines of this Court control, unless the Parties agree
 9 otherwise or ask the Court to decide a particular issue.

10 **2. COOPERATION**

11 The parties are aware of the importance the Court places on cooperation and commit to
 12 cooperate in good faith throughout the matter consistent with this Court’s Guidelines for the
 13 Discovery of ESI.

14 **3. PROPORTIONALITY**

15 Parties are expected to use reasonable, good faith, and proportional efforts to preserve,
 16 identify, and produce relevant information consistent with Fed. R. Civ. P. 26(b)(1)¹. This
 17 includes identifying appropriate limits to discovery, including limits on custodians, identification
 18 of relevant subject matter, time periods for discovery, and other parameters to reasonably limit
 19 and guide preservation and discovery issues.

20 **4. LIAISON**

21 The parties have identified liaisons to each other who are and will be knowledgeable
 22 about and responsible for discussing their respective ESI. Each e-discovery liaison will be, or
 23 have access to those who are, knowledgeable about the technical aspects of e-discovery,
 24 including the location, nature, accessibility, format, collection, search methodologies, and

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 27 ¹ Information can originate in any form, including ESI and paper, and is not limited to
 28 information created or stored electronically.

1 production of ESI in this matter. The parties will rely on the liaisons, as needed, to confer about
2 ESI and to help resolve disputes without court intervention.

3 a) Defendants appoint Paul Sampson and Kelly Knoll as their e-discovery
4 liaisons.

5 b) Plaintiffs appoint Yana Hart, Mark I. Richards, Greg Mullens, Christopher
6 Young, and Arielle Wagner as their e-discovery liaisons.

7 **5. PRESERVATION**

8 The parties have discussed their preservation obligations and needs and agree that
9 preservation of potentially relevant ESI will be reasonable and proportionate.

10 To reduce the costs and burdens of preservation and to ensure proper ESI is preserved,
11 the parties further agree that:

12 a) Only ESI created or received between July 11, 2018, and the present, will be
13 preserved.

14 b) The parties have discussed and will continue to meet and confer regarding the
15 types of ESI they believe should be preserved and the custodians, or general job titles or
16 descriptions of custodians, for whom they believe ESI should be preserved, *e.g.*, “HR head,”
17 “scientist,” and “marketing manager.” The parties shall add or remove custodians as reasonably
18 necessary.

19 c) The parties will endeavor to agree on the number of custodians per party for
20 whom ESI will be preserved, searched, reviewed, and produced.

21 d) The following data sources are not reasonably accessible because of undue
22 burden or cost pursuant to Fed. R. Civ. P. 26(b)(2)(B) and ESI from these sources will be
23 preserved pursuant to normal business retention, but not searched, reviewed, or produced:

24 1. backup systems and/or tapes used for disaster recovery; and
25 2. systems no longer in use that cannot be accessed.

e) Among the sources of data the parties agree are not reasonably accessible, or not proportional to the needs of the case, the parties agree not to preserve, search, review, or produce the following:

1. deleted, slack, fragmented, or other data accessible only by forensics;
2. random access memory (RAM), temporary files, or other ephemeral data that are difficult to preserve without disabling the operating system; and
3. on-line access data such as temporary internet files, history, cache, cookies, and the like.

6. SEARCH

a) In addition to the provisions agreed to below in this Section 6, the parties agree that in responding to an initial Fed. R. Civ. P. 34 request they will meet and confer about searching ESI in order to identify ESI that is subject to production in discovery, including the use (if any) of Technology Assisted Review (“TAR”) to filter out non-responsive documents, and a procedure for validating the efficacy of search terms. If any disagreements remain over the methods and protocols for searching ESI, including disputes regarding use of TAR or validation procedures, then the Parties agree to seek the Court’s resolution of their dispute.

b) The parties agree to filter out ESI that is not subject to discovery. Each party will use its best efforts to filter out common system files and application executable files by using a commercially reasonable hash identification process. Hash values that may be filtered out during this process are located in the National Software Reference Library (“NSRL”) NIST hash set list. Additional filtering of non-human readable files may include, but are not limited to, Bin files and P7S files.

c) A party is required to produce only a single copy of a responsive document, and the parties shall make reasonable efforts to de-duplicate ESI documents globally through an agreed upon metadata field, including MD5 Hash, Source Hash, or SHA256.

d) Email Threading: The Parties may use analytics technology to identify email threads and need only produce the unique most inclusive copy and related family members and may exclude lesser inclusive copies; EXCEPT that any thread member that contains additional or

1 altered data not contained in the most-inclusive email (including, *e.g.*, attachments or BCC
 2 recipients), is not a less inclusive email and must be separately produced. Responsibility for
 3 review and identification of potential less inclusive emails rests in the first instance with the
 4 Producing Party.

5 **7. PRODUCTION FORMATS**

6 Appendix A sets forth the types of metadata that will be included with each produced
 7 document, where available. In general, the Parties agree to produce documents, in TIFF file
 8 format. If particular documents warrant a different format, the Parties will cooperate to arrange
 9 for the mutually acceptable production of such documents. The Parties agree not to degrade the
 10 searchability of documents as part of the document production process. Parent-child relationships
 11 (the association between an attachment and its parent email, which are referred to as “families”)
 12 that have been maintained in the ordinary course of business must be preserved. The Producing
 13 Party will make reasonable efforts to produce responsive families together unless one or more
 14 members of the family are privileged, and in that case, the family will be Bates numbered with a
 15 placeholder for the withheld privileged document and the removed document will be logged on
 16 the Privilege Log. The Parties agree to meet and confer to address any issues related to
 17 production formats and processing.

18 The Parties also recognize that certain responsive information may reside in proprietary
 19 systems and formats or may consist of structured data. To the extent such information is to be
 20 produced in this case, the Parties agree to meet and confer about the form in which that
 21 information is produced.

22 **8. PHASING**

23 When a party propounds discovery requests pursuant to Fed. R. Civ. P. 34, the parties
 24 will discuss and agree to meet and confer about whether the production of ESI should be
 25 prioritized and how that prioritization may occur across ESI sources and custodians.

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1 **9. HYPERLINKS**

2 Document(s) and/or folder(s) of documents that are hyperlinked inside a responsive
 3 document need not be produced in the first instance. The Requesting Party may request up to
 4 500 specifically identified hyperlinks in produced documents by identifying the Bates number
 5 and URL or link text for each requested link to the Producing Party, and the Producing Party
 6 will produce any responsive, non-privileged, point-in-time hyperlinked document. For each
 7 document produced under this Paragraph, the Producing Party shall include the following
 8 metadata fields, if available: Collaborators (accounts and groups that have permission to edit the
 9 file or add comments) and Viewers (accounts and groups that have permission to view the file).

10 **10. PRIVILEGE LOG**

11 a) If a party reasonably determines that one or more responsive documents are not
 12 discoverable because they are subject to the attorney-client communication privilege or work
 13 product doctrine, or another recognized protection or privilege (collectively, the “Privileges” and
 14 each a “Privilege”), the party shall produce a log for each document or each category of
 15 documents withheld for privilege from that production pursuant to the terms and parameters
 16 below. The privilege log(s) will be produced in MS Excel format or any other format that
 17 permits electronic sorting and searching.

18 b) A producing party will produce an initial privilege log forty-five (45) days after
 19 its first production of documents in this action and subsequent privilege logs every forty-five
 20 (45) days during discovery.

21 c) The Producing Party must provide a privilege log for all documents produced to
 22 date no later than thirty (30) days prior to the close of fact discovery, to allow the Parties
 23 adequate time to meet and confer to resolve any privilege disputes or seek resolution within
 24 seven (7) days after the fact discovery cut-off, consistent with Local Rule 37-3.

25 c) For those documents or categories of similarly situated documents required to be
 26 placed on a privilege log pursuant to the Protective Order and ESI Order in this action, to the
 27 extent applicable, each Party’s privilege log must provide objective metadata (to the extent it is
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1 reasonably available and does not reflect privileged or protected information itself), an
2 indication of the privilege or protection being asserted, identification of any associated persons
3 who are attorneys, and a description of the privileged or protected material.

4 d) Objective metadata includes the following:

- 5 1. Custodian
- 6 2. Author
- 7 3. From
- 8 4. To
- 9 5. CC
- 10 6. BCC
- 11 7. Date Sent
- 12 8. Time Sent
- 13 9. Date Created
- 14 10. A unique identifying number for each logged document ad seriatim starting
15 with the number 1 (the “Privilege Log ID” or “Item No.”); and
- 16 11. A family relationship identifier

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18 e) In addition to the objective metadata fields set for above, the Parties agree to
19 include the following information on a privilege log, insofar as that information is reasonably
20 available:

- 21 1. the Bates number range;
- 22 2. If the sender or recipient of an email communication is shown in the
23 metadata on the log as a distribution list, the party asserting the claim of privilege
24 shall provide the current membership of the list, unless the list has already been

deleted or is no longer populated (for example, if all employees that had been on the list have left employment with Defendants);²

3. the subject matter addressed in the document;

4. the purpose for which the information was prepared or communicated;

5. the nature of the privilege or protection asserted (*i.e.*, attorney-client privilege, work product doctrine);

6. an indication of whether the document has been produced in redacted form or withheld in its entirety; and

7. the specific basis for the claim that the information is privileged.

10 f) Communications involving counsel, or experts retained for the purpose of this
11 litigation, that post-date the filing of the complaint on July 11, 2023 need not be placed on a
12 privilege log.

13 g) Email chains: If there is more than one branch of (*i.e.*, more than one unique
14 group of recipients of) an email thread, each branch will be individually logged; however, each
15 individual email within the thread need not be logged if the recipients of the email chain are all
16 identical or if a Party has elected to use threading for review and/or production of emails. A
17 Party asserting privilege over a chain of emails may produce only a single redacted copy of such
18 email chain to the extent some portions are only partially privileged, except that any unique
19 branches of the email chain must also either be produced in redacted form or included on the
20 metadata privilege log.

21 h) Privilege logs will be produced in an Excel format, or other agreed-upon format,
22 which allows the receiving party to search and sort any and all columns and entries of the
23 privilege log.

27 ² Information concerning individuals' titles and/or job positions shall be provided in a
28 separate list appended to the privilege log. Attorneys or their staff shall be identified in any
privilege log with a unique identifier (e.g., asterisk or double asterisk).

1 **11. VALIDATION OF SEARCH TERMS**

2 After applying search terms to targeted document set(s), the Producing Party will review
3 a statistically valid (68%, ± 5 ; one standard deviation), randomly generated sample set of the
4 documents that do not hit upon any search terms (“Null Set Sample”); and produce to the
5 Requesting Party responsive, non-privileged documents from that Null Set Sample. This
6 production shall be clearly identified as the product of the Producing Party’s review of a Null
7 Set Sample.

8 Based upon the responsive documents located within the Null Set Sample, the Parties will
9 work cooperatively to develop additional, new search terms in the same manner used to develop
10 the initial set of search terms. The Producing Party will apply these new terms to the targeted
11 document set(s) (having already run the initial search terms) and produce responsive, non-
12 privileged documents.

13 A one-time check of a Null Set Sample as described above provides quality control
14 proportional to the needs of the litigation. Either Party may apply to the Court, following robust
15 meet and confer, for adjustment to this process upon a showing of good cause founded upon
16 unforeseen circumstances.

17 **12. MODIFICATION**

18 This Stipulated Order may be modified by a Stipulated Order of the parties or by the
19 Court for good cause shown. Any such modified Stipulated Order will be titled sequentially as
20 follows, “First Modified Stipulated Order re: Discovery of Electronically Stored Information for
21 Standard Litigation,” and each modified Stipulated Order will supersede the previous Stipulated
22 Order.

23 **IT IS SO STIPULATED**, through Counsel of Record.

1 Dated: April 11, 2025

Respectfully submitted,

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1 Dated: April 11, 2025

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25 *Counsel for Defendants*

26 GOOGLE LLC AND ALPHABET INC.

27 **SIGNATURE ATTESTATION**

28 I, Lesley E. Weaver, attest that concurrence in the filing of this document has been obtained from the other signatories. I declare under penalty of perjury that the foregoing is true and correct.

29 Executed this 11th day of April, 2025, at Oakland, California.

30 By: /s/ Lesley E. Weaver

31 Lesley E. Weaver

1 **IT IS ORDERED** that the foregoing Agreement is approved.
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3 Dated: April 14, 2025

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5 HON. SUSAN VAN KEULEN
6 UNITED STATES MAGISTRATE JUDGE
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APPENDIX A

Field Name	Field Description
BEGBATES	Beginning Bates number as stamped on the production image
ENDBATES	Ending Bates number as stamped on the production image
BEGATTACH	First production Bates number of the first document in a family
ENDATTACH	Last production Bates number of the last document in a family
CUSTODIAN	Includes the Individual (Custodian) from whom the documents originated and all Individual(s) whose documents de-duplicated out (De-Duped Custodian)
HASH	MD5 or SHA-256 Hash Value
ATTACHNAME	The file name(s) of the attachment(s) to a parent document. Separated by semicolon
ATTACHCOUNT	Number of attachments to an email or embedded parent, as generated by commercially available discovery processing tools
SUBJECT	Subject line of email
TITLE	Title from properties of document
DATESENT	Date email was sent (format: MM/DD/YYYY)
DATERECEIVED	Date received and time (format: MM/DD/YYYY HH:MM)
TIMESENT	Time email was sent
TIMERECEIVED	Time email was received
TIMEZONE	Time zone used to process data during document collection and processing.
TO	All recipients that were included on the "To" line of the message
FROM	The name and email address of the sender of the message
CC	All recipients that were included on the "CC" line of the message
BCC	All recipients that were included on the "BCC" line of the message

1	AUTHOR	Original composer of document or sender of message
2	FILENAME	Filename of an electronic document (Edoc or attachment)
3	FILEEXTENSION	Indicates file extension of source of native file (e.g., .msg, .doc., .xls, etc.)
4	TEXTPATH	Relative path to the document level text file
5	PAGECOUNT	The number of pages of the Document, excluding the pages of documents in the same family
6	CONFIDENTIALITY	Identifies the confidential designation as applied in accordance with protective order on file in this Action
7	DATEMOD	Date an electronic document was last modified or created (format: MM/DD/YYYY) (Edoc or attachment)
8	DATECREATED	Date the document was created (format: MM/DD/YYYY) (Edoc or attachment)
9	NATIVELINK	Native File Link (Native Files only)
10	REDACTION	Populated “Yes” when a document contains a redaction
11	WITHHELD PLACEHOLDER	To the extent a document is fully withheld (on the basis of privilege or otherwise), this field must be populated with a “Y”
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